

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 /049 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6049
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USEC BRUSSELS 843
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7778

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GR
SUBJECT: LABOR: POSSIBILITY OF STRIKES AT U.S. MILITARY BASES

REF: ATHENS 7696

1. MEMBERS OF UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF U.S. FORCES (GREEK EMPLOYEES AT CERTAIN MILITARY BASES GREECE) MET IN ATHENS EVENING OCTOBER 24 AT HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE). ISSUES PROMPTING MEETING WERE (A) ALLEGED "ANTI-GREEK" FILM PROJECTED AT U.S. AIR BASE OCTOBER 18 (REFTEL) AND (B) RECENT DISMISSAL OF TWENTY-FOUR GREEK EMPLOYEES DUE TO REDUCTION IN FORCE (RIF).

2. AS RESULT OF MEETING -- WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY BETWEEN 400-600 GREEK EMPLOYEES (TWO ATHENS NEWSPAPERS PUT FIGURE AS HIGH AS 800), A NUMBER OF DEMANDS EMERGED. IF DEMANDS NOT MET BY THE U.S. FORCES, ADMINISTRATION OF UNION WAS AUTHORIZED TO CALL STRIKE. DEMANDS FOLLOW:

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(A) THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECTION OF ALLEGED ANTI-GREEK FILM

TO BE TRANSFERRED; (B) TWENTY-FOUR GREEK EMPLOYEES RECENTLY
DISMISSED IN REF TO BE REHIRED;
(C) APPROPRIATE GREEK LABOR LEGISLATION TO BE FULLY APPLIES AND
RESPECTED, AND FULL RESPECT TO BE GIVEN BY AMERICAN SUPERVISORS
TO BOTH NATIONAL DIGNITY AND INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY OF GREEK WORKER;
(D) NO FUTURE DISMISSAL OF GREEK EMPLOYEES PRIOR TO DISMISSAL
OF U.S. NATIONAL EMPLOYEES WHO "ILLEGALLY EMPLOYED BY U.S.
FORCES" AND (E) THE UNION ADMINISTRATION IS TO BE "ESTEEMED
AND RESPECTED" AND ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION TO BE ALLOWED.
ADDITIONALLY, LETTERS ANNOUNCING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE
FORWARDED TO GREEK MINISTER OF DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND LABOR.

3. TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF GSEE PAPAGEORGIOU WAS PRESENT AT
ASSEMBLY AND REPORTEDLY PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT OF BOTH GSEE AND
ATHENS LABOR CENTER.

4. COMMENT: REPORTS FROM THOSE PRESENT AT MEETING INDICATE THAT
GSEE PRESIDENT PAPAGEORGIOU TOOK "MODERATE LINE" AND PRESIDED
IN SUCH A WAY THAT DISCUSSION OF ISSUES -- AND NOT EMOTIONALISM""
TYPIFIED THE PROCEEDINGS. IF STRIKE IS TO BE CALLED, A FORTY-
EIGHT HOUR WARNING MUST BE GIVEN BY UNION ADMINISTRATION.
CURRENT PRELIMINARY APPRAISAL HERE IS THAT THERE GOOD LIKELIHOOD
THAT STRIKE WILL NOT OCCUR, OR IF IT DOES, IT WILL BE OF LIMITED
DURATION.
KUBISCH

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